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Samuel B. F. Morse, Esq., of New York, and Professor Wolcott Gibbs, of New York, were elected Fellows.

From the list reported by the Council appointed for this purpose, the following persons were chosen Foreign Honorary Members, viz. : —

Robert Brown, Esq., London.

Prof. Elias Fries, Upsal, Sweden.

Leopold von Buch, Berlin.

Sir Henry de la Bèche, London.

Prof. Elie de Beaumont, Paris.

Prof. P. A. Hansen, Seeberg, Denmark.

Prof. Jens Christian Oersted, Copenhagen.

Prof. Henry Rose, Berlin.

Prof. Jean Baptiste Dumas, Paris.

Prof. Milne Edwards, Paris.

Prof. Johann Müller, Berlin.

Prof. Christ. Gottfried Ehrenberg, Berlin.

Prof. Karl Ritter, Berlin.

Prof. Friedrich Tiedemann, Heidelberg.

Prof. Theod. Ludwig Wilhelm Bischoff, Giessen.

Prof. Johann Friedrich Encke, Berlin.

Prof. Karl Ernst von Baer, St. Petersburg.

Prof. Theod. Schwamm, Louvain, Belgium.

Robert Stephenson, Esq., London.

M. Benoit Fourneyron, Paris.

Prof. Macedonie Melloni, Pisa.

M. Andral, Paris.

Prof. P. C. A. Louis, Paris.

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Three hundred and twenty-fifth meeting.

December 4, 1849. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The occasion was rendered peculiarly interesting from the circumstance that the meeting was convened in the library of Dr. Bowditch, formerly President of the Academy. The

arrangements of the apartment remain precisely as they were in his day. His chair and table occupy their usual position, his bust is placed on the wall as near as possible to the place where he used to sit, and all the papers on his desk remain just as he left them. Many incidents respecting his early life and his subsequent habits, and especially his scientific labors, were related, and several memorials were shown, —such as medals; a bust of Laplace, presented by his widow; the manuscript of an Almanac, constructed by him at the age of fifteen; his abstract of the mathematical papers in the Transactions of the Royal Society; his portfolios, on the covers of which were numerous mottoes in various languages, characteristic of the philosopher; and, lastly, the fragment of his translation of the fifth volume of the *Mécanique Céleste*, as far as he had proceeded.

Letters were read from Samuel B. F. Morse, Esq., and Professor Wolcott Gibbs, of New York, accepting the fellowship of the Academy.

Dr. H. I. Bowditch gave the result of the microscopic examination of the accumulations on the teeth of healthy persons, near the gums, in forty-nine individuals, most of whom were very particular in their care of the teeth. Animalcules and vegetable products were found in every instance except two. In those cases the brush was used three times a day, and a thread was passed between the teeth daily. Windsor soap was also used by one of these two persons, with the brush. Dr. Bowditch had tried the effects of various substances in destroying the animalcules, and especially of tobacco, by which they seemed to be in no wise incommoded. Soap-suds and the Chlorine Tooth-wash invariably destroyed them.

Professor Agassiz made some remarks on the egg in vertebrate animals, as a means of classification. What is their structure, and is there any thing specific in the eggs of the different classes of Vertebrata? In the eggs of them all is found a generation of cells in the germinative dot, as may be readily

seen in eggs of turtles, rabbits, squirrels, &c. The eggs of Mammals are very minute, and surrounded by epithelium; and they begin at once their subdivision within the parent. In those of birds, a large bulk of vitellus is developed in the ovary, and afterwards the albumen and shell are added. The same is the case in turtles, lizards, and serpents; but the eggs of Batrachians are different, and are small, elastic, and dilatable, like those of fishes. He thought, therefore, that there was a closer affinity between the first-mentioned reptiles and birds than between them and the Batrachians; and that the turtles, lizards, and serpents might be incorporated with birds, while the Batrachians were classed with fishes.

Professor Horsford exhibited several specimens of vermilion which varied very essentially in color from adulteration. Some of the articles used for that purpose are chromate of lead, sulphate of lime, and carbonate of magnesia.

Mr. Desor mentioned some facts relating to the distribution of animals in the region of Lake Superior, and specified some of the animals found on Isle Royale, whose presence he was at a loss to account for, except on the supposition that the island was once continuous with the continent.

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**Three hundred and twenty-sixth meeting.**

January 8, 1850. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

Dr. C. T. Jackson, from the committee raised at a former meeting to suggest a practicable mode for recording by coast-marks the present mean sea-level on the Atlantic shore of this country, made a report, in the form of a memorial to the Secretary of the Treasury. The draft was recommitted, in order that a proper resolution, expressing the sense of the Academy, might be appended.

Mr. Paine presented a communication from Professor Augustus W. Smith, of Middletown, Connecticut, containing